

Klondike III/Biglow Canyon Wind Integration Project

Responsible Agency: U.S. Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Title of Proposed Project: Klondike III/Biglow Canyon Wind Integration Project

State Involved: Oregon

Abstract: BPA has been asked by PPM Energy, Inc. to interconnect 300 megawatts (MW) of electricity generated from the proposed Klondike III Wind Project to the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. Orion Energy LLC has also asked BPA to interconnect 400 MW of electricity from its proposed Biglow Canyon Wind Farm, located north and east of the proposed Klondike III Wind Project. To interconnect these projects, BPA would need to build and operate a 230-kV double-circuit transmission line about 12 miles long, expand one substation and build one new substation. The wind projects would require wind turbines, substation(s), access roads, and other facilities.

Two routes for the transmission line are being considered. Both begin at PPM's Klondike Schoolhouse Substation then travel north (Proposed Action) or north and westerly (Middle Alternative) to a new BPA 230-kV substation next to BPA's existing John Day 500-kV Substation.

BPA is also considering a No Action Alternative in which BPA would not build the transmission line and would not interconnect the wind projects.

The proposed BPA and wind projects would be located on private land, mainly used for agriculture. If BPA decides to interconnect the wind projects, construction of the BPA transmission line and substation(s) could commence as early as the winter of 2006-07. Both wind projects would operate for much of each year for at least 20 years.

The proposed projects would generally create no or low impacts. Wildlife resources and local visual resources are the only resources to receive an impact rating other than "none" or "low." The low to moderate impacts to wildlife are from the expected bird and bat mortality and the cumulative impact of this project on wildlife when combined with other proposed wind projects in the region. The low to high impacts to visual resources reflect the effect that the transmission line and the turbine strings from both wind projects would have on viewers in the local area, but this impact diminishes with distance from the project.

For additional information, contact:

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For additional copies of this document, please call 1-800-622-4520 and ask for the document by name. The draft environmental impact statement is also on the Internet at:

http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/Document_Library/Klondike/. Or you can request additional copies by writing to:

Bonneville Power Administration
P. O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208
ATT : Public Information Center - CHDL-1

For additional information on DOE NEPA activities, please contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance, EH-42, U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington D.C. 20585, phone: 1-800-472-2756 or visit the DOE NEPA Web site at www.eh.doe.gov/nepa.